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**NORRIS AND FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF INDICTED FOR
MISUSE OF BALTIMORE POLICE ACCOUNT**

Baltimore, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that a federal grand jury has indicted former Baltimore Police Commissioner EDWARD T. NORRIS, age 43, and his former Chief of Staff, JOHN STENDRINI, age 60, for their participation in a scheme to use funds from a Baltimore Police Department account to pay for expensive meals, trips, gifts, and other personal items.

The four-count indictment, which was unsealed today, charges that from May 2000 through August 2002, while serving as the Police Commissioner of Baltimore City, NORRIS had oversight of the Baltimore Police Supplemental Account, which had its origins in three Depression-era accounts historically used for charitable purposes and for expenditures that benefitted the Baltimore Police Department. According to the indictment, NORRIS and STENDRINI, who served as his Chief of Staff, had the authority to order or approve disbursements from the account, which were then made by employees in the Department's Fiscal Section.

The indictment charges that although NORRIS and STENDRINI knew that the funds in the Supplemental Account had to be used for the benefit of the Department, they devised and carried

out a scheme to use the Supplemental Account to finance more than approximately \$20,000 in personal expenditures. Among other things, the indictment charges that NORRIS used the Supplemental Account to finance his affairs with numerous different women and to pay for luxury hotels, expensive meals, clothing, and gifts from Victoria's Secret, Coach and other stores.

According to the indictment, in order to carry out and conceal their scheme, NORRIS and STENDRINI prepared and submitted letters to the Fiscal Section authorizing the disbursement of funds from the Supplemental Account that were crafted to give the false impression that the funds were to be used or had been used for legitimate business expenditures. For instance, it is alleged these disbursement letters routinely, falsely characterized expenditures for personal trips, meals, gifts, or other personal items as expenses related to police department business. In addition, the indictment charges that once city officials began raising questions about the Supplemental Account, STENDRINI attempted to cover up these illegal activities by lying to city officials about the handling of the account.

The indictment also charges that NORRIS made material false statements in a mortgage application submitted to the Municipal Employees Credit Union (MECU) and submitted a false "gift letter" on behalf of that application. According to the indictment, NORRIS received a \$9,000 loan from one of his employees to use for the downpayment on his home but falsely represented that this \$9,000 loan was a gift from his father.

Based on this conduct, NORRIS and STENDRINI are charged with one count of conspiracy to misapply funds and one count of misapplication of funds. STENDRINI is also charged with obstruction of justice, and NORRIS is charged with making a false statement in a mortgage application.

NORRIS and STENDRINI are expected to surrender to the United States Marshals Service on Thursday morning and to make their initial appearance before United States Magistrate Judge Susan K. Gauvey later that day.

The maximum penalty for the conspiracy charge is 5 years imprisonment; 10 years in prison for misapplication of funds; 10 years imprisonment for obstruction of justice; and 30 years in prison for the false statement on the mortgage application.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

The criminal charges in this indictment are the result of a joint investigation by the United States Postal Inspection Service and the United States Attorney's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Steven H. Levin and Jason M. Weinstein.